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Mozart's orchestral compositions, even when it is notorious that they were almost waited for by the impatient performers, who could not be persuaded to place implicit faith in the composer's unprecedented readiness. Of this Overture Mozart himself writes thus: "The Overture is quite short, with alternate *pianos* and *fortes*, the Turkish music always coming in at the *fortes*. It is modulated through different keys, and I think no one can well go to sleep over it, even if his previous night has been a sleepless one." Madlle. Cavalleri, the original representative of *Constanza*, must have been more than satisfied with the brilliant passages expressly written for her by the composer; for, as he himself says, he has sacrificed much of her music to the necessity of displaying her "flexible throat," and hence a dash of the Italian *bravura* is somewhat oddly interwoven with the otherwise thoroughly Mozartish style of the music. How Madlle. Titens threw off all these *routades*, some rushing impetuously up to D in *Alt*, may be imagined by all who know her powers. As a whole, we can scarcely imagine that the part was ever so well sung; for Madlle. Titens' qualifications embrace all the requisites for the lyric stage, and do not—as is the case with many established favourites—rest upon any especial merit so brilliant as to blind an audience to her defects. Herr Rokitansky has just the exceptional Bass voice requisite for the part of *Osmün*; and although he did not add anything to the humour of the part, he sang the music like an artist throughout. His song in the first act was given with an ease only attainable by the consciousness that his ponderous voice and extensive register were fully equal to execute anything that had been executed by his predecessor Herr Fischer, for whose "grand Bass voice," as Mozart calls it, the music was specially written. In the drinking Duet, too, with *Pedritto*, he was excellent, and actually drew from the unusually stolid audience a well-merited encore. The part of *Blondina* was entrusted to Madlle. Sinico, who gave the music with the utmost finish and brilliancy, and toyed with the difficulties of the *bravura* passages with as much ease as Madlle. Titens. Dr. Gunz, as *Belmonte*, sang well, as he always does; but interpreting his native music in a foreign language, he can scarcely do himself the justice he deserves. His style is thoroughly German, and his nature is not sufficiently malleable to translate himself into Italian. Herr Stagno was an efficient *Pedritto*; and Signor Foll did all that could be desired for the small part of the Sultan. The applause was general at the conclusion; and the vocalists were called before the curtain according to a custom which is now looked upon both by audience and vocalists as a mere graceful act of courtesy at parting.

The subscription nights are now over; but the season has been lengthened out, as usual, by a series of popular performances at reduced prices.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

It was well that the Opera *Crispino e la Comare*, produced here on the 14th ult., was styled "comic," for assuredly, had it not been for such an intimation, the audience would never have discovered it. Based on a silly story about a cobbler being transformed by a fairy into a doctor, there might still have been some room for humour; but the author of the *libretto* has missed the opportunity; and certainly the brothers Ricci have not helped him over the difficulty by the liveliness of the music. The three acts contain scarcely a piece that can redeem the opera from utter worthlessness, the best being a trio, already known in the concert-room—in which the sham doctor quarrels with the real ones respecting his knowledge of the healing art—(admirably sung by Signori Ronconi, Ciampi, and Capponi) and some lively music for the cobbler's wife, which was of course given to perfection by Madlle. Adeline Patti. Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* came out literally at the end of the season—but we refrain from attempting to divine the policy of operatic management. The house closed its doors on Saturday, the 28th ult., being the last night of the subscription, and consequently (according to what we conceive a wise policy) the last night of the season.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE musical arrangements at this Floral Concert-room have been highly attractive during the past month. A large meeting of the Metropolitan Charity-school Children took place on the 3rd ult., when some music well adapted for the occasion was sung, under the conductorship of Mr. Henry Buckland. On Saturday, the 21st ult., the last of the "Opera Concerts" was given, before a large audience. The principal vocalists were Madlle. Ilma de Murska, Madlle. Sinico, Madlle. Enequist, Dr. Gunz, Signor Stagno, Mr. Santley, Signor Bossi, and Signor Tasca.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

THE agreeable Entertainment at the Gallery of Illustration continues a career of unabated success. There has seldom been a piece like the *Yachting Cruise* better adapted to enable us fully to appreciate the talents of the celebrated trio of performers who delight the public in Regent-street. The season, we hear, will be brought to a close about the third week in August. Our readers, we have no doubt, will avail themselves of the opportunity of again enjoying the *Yachting Cruise* and the *Wedding Breakfast*.

WE hear that Mr. G. A. Macfarren has written additional wind-instrument parts to Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, and that they will very shortly be published. We hope soon to have an opportunity of hearing the work performed with this interesting addition to Handel's somewhat thin score.

A GRAND Choral Festival, in aid of the Choir Benevolent Fund, was given at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on the 6th ult., the day after the marriage of H.R.H. the Princess Helena. There was a full choral service, with Tallis's Litany, and a selection of Anthems. A feature in the service was the Anthem composed by Dr. Elvey in honour of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, which was performed with orchestral accompaniments, in addition to the organ. From the large attendance, we have every hope that a handsome sum was realized towards the funds of the excellent charity on whose behalf the Festival was given. Dr. Elvey presided at the organ at the morning service; and conducted a performance of Glee, Madrigals, Part-songs, &c., which was given at St. Mark's School, in the evening.

THE Civil Service Musical Society gave a Concert on the 20th ult., at St. James's Hall (in aid of the funds of King's College Hospital), which we are glad to say was extremely well attended. A Cantata by Mr. Fred. Clay, called "The Knights of the Cross," (words by R. Reece, Esq.) was produced for the first time, and sufficiently proved that, as an amateur, Mr. Clay has many claims to attention. We regret that Mr. Bentham (of whom we made favourable mention in our last notice of this Society's Concert) was prevented from singing by indisposition, and his place was supplied by Mr. W. H. Cummings. Mr. A. S. Sullivan was a most efficient conductor.

A GRAND Evening Concert was given by Mr. W. Layland, at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater, on Tuesday evening, the 10th ult. Mr. Layland was assisted by Miss Poole, Miss Edith Wynne, and Messrs. C. Hutchings, Chaplin Henry, Chatterton, and John Thomas. Miss Kate Rae and Mr. Layland presided at the pianoforte.

ON Tuesday evening, the 10th ult., a Miscellaneous Concert was given at the Music Hall, Store-street, by Mr. W. H. Davies's Choir. The programme was an admirable one; the principals being Misses Bowker, Christian, Durley, Vine, and Mrs. Tremlow, Messrs. Bridge, Bush, Sanderson, Sheppard, and A. Smith. The band of the First Middlesex Engineer Volunteers attended, and performed a choice selection of music, under the direction of their band master, Mr. Cubis. The various Choruses, Part-songs, &c., were effectively executed by the choir, who kept, as usual, admirable time and tune; the Solos were also capably rendered, and greeted with much applause. The buffo air and duet, "Ellixir of Love," given with much humour by Messrs. Bridge and Bush, was encored. Miss E. Stirling presided at the pianoforte; and Mr. Davies conducted.

THE Quarterly Concert of the Birkbeck Choir took place at the London Mechanics Institution, on the 25th ult. The style in which the various solos and part songs were given reflected great credit on the performers, and proved unmistakably the energy of the musical director, Mr. J. C. Benthin. Amongst the most successful performances of the evening we may mention the two part-songs, the "Carnovale," Rossini, and "Sweet and Low," J. Barnby, both meeting with great applause. The soloists being chosen from the choir is a great inducement for singers to join.

THE opening of the new organ, Broadway Chapel, Hammersmith, took place on Wednesday evening, the 4th ult., when Mr. Filby, Mr. E. H. Turpin, Dr. Dearie, Mr. Ridley, and Mr. Dawson, organist of the chapel, played a selection of sacred music.

A VERY successful choral service was held at Christ Church, Watney-street, on Friday evening, the 20th ult., to celebrate the completion of some very fine stained windows. Eldon's Evening Service in C, and the anthems, "Thine O Lord," "In Jewry is God known," "Hallelujah Chorus," &c., were very creditably executed by members of several local choirs, ably accompanied by Mr. A. W. Coleman, organist of St. Mary's, Whitechapel, who also produced some very fine effects, in the voluntaries, upon the organ.

CITY SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—The first concert by this newly-established Society took place under very promising auspices, on Wednesday evening, the 18th ult., at Finsbury Chapel, Moorfields. Principals: Misses Burnett and Newson, and Messrs. Wilbye Cooper, and J. G. Patey. The oratorio was most effectively given by a chorus of 250 voices, with a full band of 50 performers from the Italian Opera, Sacred Harmonic Society, &c., &c. Mr. Wilbye Cooper and Mr. J. G. Patey of course sang well, and the ladies acquitted themselves very creditably. The choruses "O thou that tellest," "For unto us," "Lift up your heads," were given with great effect. The audience numbered about 900 persons, and scarcely one left his seat until the end of the performance, so thoroughly did the music appear to be enjoyed. Mr. J. Murray led the band and Mr. H. Piper conducted.

MR. ARTHUR S. SULLIVAN'S Concert at St. James's Hall on the 11th ult. was in every respect a highly successful one. Appealing to the public as a composer, Mr. Sullivan was perfectly right to print his own name as often as he pleased in the programme, and to stand or fall by the result. We have already given our opinion on his Symphony—which of course occupied a conspicuous place in the Concert—and of his Overture to the *Sapphire necklace*, we may say that there is very much to admire, and that, without contrasting it with mature works, it contains sufficient to show that Mr. Sullivan has power to advance to a high place provided that power be rightly directed in time. A great feature of the Concert was Madame Goldschmidt's singing of two songs by the Concert-giver, and her brilliant execution of Handel's "Sweet

bird," (with flute *obbligato* by Mr. Wells), which made us feel how little the lapse of time can weaken the charm of a real artist. Mr. Santley's song (also by Mr. Sullivan) "O mistress mine," is a clever composition, and was enthusiastically encored. Bach's Concerto in C minor, for two pianofortes, was played to perfection by Madlle. Mehlig and Mr. Franklin Taylor, and later in the evening Madlle. Mehlig performed Moscheles' "Recollections of Ireland," at the end of which the composer, who was present, received quite an ovation. The programme also included the Duet, "In such a night as this," (well sung by Miss Edith Wynne and Mr. Cummings) and the "Brisk Dance," two of the best pieces in Mr. Sullivan's Cantata, *Kenilworth*. The Concert was extremely well attended.

MR. MARSHALL HALL BELL gave a Recital of Pianoforte music on the 7th ult. at his residence, Grove end Road, St. John's Wood. We have before spoken in high terms of Mr. Bell's qualifications as a pianist, and have only to say that on this occasion he fully maintained his reputation. He was assisted in the instrumental department by Mr. F. Ralph (Violin), and Mr. H. Harper (Violoncello), and Miss Fanny Armytage was the vocalist.

THE announcement of our intention to notice some of the important Choral Festivals which have lately taken place has tempted so many of our subscribers to send us detailed accounts of those given in their immediate neighbourhood that we are reluctantly compelled to say how impossible we find it—with all our good feeling for the cause—to make room for their insertion; especially as most of them arrived at our office after the leading article on the subject had already extended beyond the prescribed limit. We may here say, however, that the gathering at Chelmsford, although the first Festival of the associated choirs, appears to have been highly satisfactory; and that the meeting of the parochial choirs in the parish church of Eccles—where fourteen choirs, which had been practised under the able direction of Mr. Meadowcroft, the honorary organist of the Manchester Cathedral, were represented—affords ample proof how much can be done by the exertions of an individual who throws his heart as well as his talents into the work.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance.

We beg to remind our correspondents that all notices of country concerts, whether written or extracted from newspapers, must be accompanied by the name and address of the person who sends them.

Our Correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes which may occur.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers, that although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

We should be glad to oblige "An old subscriber," but cannot endorse the opinion of a contemporary upon a performer we have not heard, especially when she made her appearance at a Concert in London for which no tickets were forwarded to our office.

J. H. B.—Our Correspondent will see that it is impossible for us to insert criticisms upon performers whom we have never heard. In the case of country Concerts of course we are compelled to do so; but, as the paragraph at the head of our country news will show, these notices are always duly authenticated, and we are in no way responsible for the opinions expressed.

We cannot insert the account of the opening of the new Organ at St. Mary Magdalene, Bristol, as the notice sent to our office is unauthenticated by the name and address of the person who forwarded it.

James Pratt.—Whenever triplets are met with in one hand, to be played against two or four notes in the other, the parts should be performed independently. We cannot undertake to give the instrumentation of every passage in the Overture to Dinorah; and it appears scarcely necessary to say that an organist who allows five beats in a bar in Common Time must be wrong. These questions are really too trivial for a Musical Journal.

Brief Summary of Country News.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.

ABINGDON.—The last Concert for this season of the Musical Association was given on the 25th June, when Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* was performed. The solos, duets, &c., were sung by Mrs. Davis, Miss F. Hellis, and Messrs. G. F. Glanville, H. Clarke, and W. Tayler. Mr. E. L. Shepherd conducted.

ASHFORD, KENT.—A Fancy Bazaar and Exhibition of Objects of Industry, in support of the Congregational Church

Building Fund, took place at the Assembly Rooms, on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June, realizing upwards of £300. The principal object of interest in the exhibition was an Organ of extraordinary pretension, built by a watchmaker during his leisure hours. The instrument contains 8 stops, 12 draw stops, and 435 pipes. It is built in the smallest space perhaps ever yet attempted, the machinery of the key movement and draw stop action occupying only nine inches in depth, whereas for church purposes about nine feet would be taken up for the same. It is enclosed in a case of mahogany, French polished, with a beautifully decorated front, presenting a very handsome exterior, the dimensions of which are 5ft. 6in. width, 4ft. 3in. depth, and 8ft. the height. The power and capabilities of the instrument were well displayed by Mr. H. Bretton, of Canterbury, whose performance of music from the best authors gained unbounded admiration.

CAPE TOWN.—A Cantata, entitled the *Flower Queen*, was given at a private rehearsal of the Vocal Classes of Misses Solomon and Amm's School on the 25th May. The poetry of this Cantata is written by Miss Frances Jane Crosby, a graduate of the New York Institution for the blind, and the music is by George F. Root, a well-known composer in America. The local papers speak very highly of the delicacy and beauty of the composition, which is written especially for ladies' schools; and we are assured that the young vocalists acquitted themselves to the entire satisfaction of a numerous audience.

CORK.—The opening of the new Parish Church of S.S. Peter and Paul's took place on the 29th June. The Mass selected for performance was Beethoven's in C, a work which has only lately taken the place it should do amongst the many beautiful services written for the Church. The choir consisted of nearly all the amateur talent of the city, vocal and instrumental, assisted by the band of the Royal 44th Dragoon Guards. It was conducted with much ability by Mr. T. J. Sullivan, Organist of St. Mary's Church in this city, and was sung throughout, not only by the solo voices, but by the chorus, with a care and precision highly commendable. The ceremonies concluded at a quarter past two o'clock, the orchestra and choir rendering, with splendid effect, the Hallelujah Chorus.

LEEDS.—The new series of the Town Hall Popular Concerts was brought to a close on Saturday evening, the 7th ult., by an excellent concert (the eighth) in every way worthy of its predecessors. Miss Beverley and Mr. Bell have established themselves as favourites at these concerts. The former gave a spirited rendering of "The Minstrel Boy," which was warmly encored, and she responded by singing "Her heart was in the song," in a manner even more effective. Mr. Bell's fine voice showed to great advantage both in his song of "The Wolf," and in the duet with Miss Beverley. Miss Grayston, a pupil of Mrs. Wood, made her *début* at this concert. She possesses a pleasing voice, and acquitted herself with great credit, and from the promise of her first appearance, will doubtless prove an acquisition to the concert-room.

NORWOOD.—The South Norwood Musical Society gave its second subscription Concert on the 10th ult., to a large and attentive audience. The programme comprised Weber's Mass in G, Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer," and a miscellaneous selection. The principal vocalists in the first part were Madame Gordon, Miss L. Stainburn, Mr. T. Fishwick, and Mr. Howgrave; and in the second part Mrs. Leete replaced Madame Gordon, and Mr. J. Bawtree took the tenor part, whilst Miss Cooper sang the contralto solo, "Agnus Dei," the whole being members of the society. The solos were extremely well given, the *Dona Nobis* (sung by Mrs. Leete) with its subdued choral accompaniment, being encored. In Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer," the solo was rendered by Miss Whitaker with excellent appreciation of the beauty of the music and the meaning of its composer. The chorus was most efficient throughout, and gave ample proof of the good effect of vigorous training. The success of the concert was no doubt mainly owing to the untiring energy of Mr. Westbrook, the conductor, who evidently makes his task a pleasure. Mr. E. Bawtree replaced Miss Hobdell at the pianoforte, and acquitted himself to the satisfaction of all present.

OXFORD.—On Wednesday, June 27th, an exercise consisting of the 8th and the first two verses of the 9th Psalms, composed for the degree of Bachelor of Music by Joseph C. Tiley, Organist of St. Michael Bassishaw, Basinghall-street, London, was most successfully performed in the Music School by the principal members of the Choirs of Magdalen and New Colleges before the Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Corfe. The final chorus is a fugue of 98 bars: in this fugue five forms of the subject are used—Original, Inverted, Diminished, Diminished and Inverted, and Augmented, the subject in one or more of its forms being heard in every bar.

REDCAR.—Special services were held at St. Peter's Church on Thursday, July 5th, on the occasion of the opening of the new Organ built by Forster and Andrews, of Hull. The morning and evening services were intoned by the Rev. F. S. Tireman (late Precentor of Carlisle Cathedral), and the lessons were read by the Rev. B. N. R. Batty, of Redcar. The Rev. E. Churton, Archdeacon of Cleveland, preached a suitable sermon in the morning, and the Rev. J. B. Dykes, of Durham, in the evening. The capabilities of the Organ were finely displayed by Mr. J. H. Righton, the organist and director of the choir. At the commencement of each service Mr. Righton played an extemporaneous voluntary, displaying to advantage the different stops, &c., which was followed in the morning by "O rest in the Lord," from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and in the evening by "He shall feed his flock," Handel's *Messiah*, both